



App. No. 10/803,569

Amdt. dated August 5, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed May 12, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Withdrawn) A footwear mold, the footwear mold comprising:
2 a footwear form, wherein the footwear form includes a location mark
3 corresponding to a location of a strap rivet.
- 1 2. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the footwear form is
2 an inner portion of the footwear mold.
- 1 3. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 2, wherein the footwear mold
2 further comprises:
3 an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the upper portion and the lower
4 portion substantially encompass the footwear form.
- 1 4. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 3, wherein at least the upper
2 portion includes a material inlet.
- 1 5. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 3, wherein the footwear form is
2 suspended from the interior of the upper portion.
- 1 6. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location marked
2 extends from the footwear form and is operable to reduce material forming a finished footwear
3 piece at the location of the strap.
- 1 7. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location marked
2 extends into the footwear form and is operable to increase material forming a finished footwear
3 piece at the location of the strap.

1 8. (Withdrawn) The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location mark
2 further includes a halo section that roughly corresponds to the size of a rivet head upon
3 expansion of a material forming an expanded footwear piece.

1 9. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a footwear mold, the method
2 comprising:
3 forming a location mark in a footwear form, wherein the footwear form is an
4 inner portion of a three piece mold.

1 10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark extends
2 from the footwear form and is operable to reduce material forming a finished footwear piece at
3 the location of the strap.

1 11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark extends
2 into the footwear form and is operable to increase material forming a finished footwear piece at
3 the location of the strap.

1 12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark includes
2 a halo, and wherein the method further comprises:
3 locating an outer edge of the halo approximately even with a pattern
4 corresponding to an inner wall of a footwear piece.

1 13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the outer edge of the halo
2 is set-off approximately one sixteenth inch from an edge of the footwear piece after expansion of
3 the footwear piece.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear comprising:
2 a sole;
3 an upper portion extending from the sole, wherein the upper portion is adapted to
4 cover the top of a user's foot, and wherein the upper portion includes a rear opening for receiving
5 the user's foot;
6 at least one connector coupled to the upper portion;

7 a strap operably coupled to the upper portion, wherein the strap is configured to
8 be positioned across the rear opening to engage the back of the user's foot;

9 at least one adjustment mechanism that is interactable with the connector and the
10 strap to adjust the position of the strap relative to the back of the user's foot;

11 **wherein the upper portion and the sole are formed as a first part molded**
12 **from a first continuous piece of lofted foam material; and wherein the strap is attached to**
13 **the upper portion such that the strap contacts the upper portion and pivots relative to the**
14 **upper portion.**

1 15. (Original) A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the connector
2 comprises a loop that is pivotally coupled to the upper portion.

1 16. (Original) A piece of footwear as in claim 15, wherein the adjustment
2 mechanism comprises a strip of material having one end coupled to the strap and a free end that
3 is configured to pass through the loop.

1 17. (Original) A piece of footwear as in claim 16, wherein the adjustment
2 mechanism further comprises a coupling arrangement to couple the free end of the strip of
3 material to the strap.

1 18. (Original) A piece of footwear as in claim 17, wherein the coupling
2 arrangement comprises a plurality of snaps.

1 19. (Original) A piece of footwear as in claim 17, wherein the coupling
2 arrangement comprises a hook and loop fastener material.

1 20. (Original) A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the at least one
2 connector comprises a pair of connectors coupled to opposite sides of the rear opening, and
3 wherein the at least one adjustment mechanisms comprises a pair of adjustment mechanisms that
4 are interactable with the pair of connectors.

Claims 21 and 22. (Canceled)